

What you have told me about issues that are important to you...



Civics

Many of you feel underprepared for voting and want more education on our legal and legislative system, including information about your rights as citizens, employees and taxpayers.



Leadership

You want to be engaged in the big-picture issues that will affect you in the future, including climate change and job creation. You also want more opportunities to have your opinions and ideas heard, noted and acted upon.



Inclusion and Diversity

You define inclusion in different ways, but a common thread is that you want equal opportunities for all, regardless of economic or cultural background, abilities, geographical location, gender, or ethnicity.



Work

You feel unskilled and unprepared for the rapidly changing workforce and you want more accessible work experience opportunities made available to you and your peers. You worry about future job opportunities, particularly due to the economic impact of the pandemic.



Environment

You recognise the impact of climate change and pollution on both the world and your local community and you want action now.



Learning

You want equal opportunities for education and you would like more support and understanding from your teachers. You worry about the 'real' cost of education (books, uniforms, excursions and sports expenses) particularly in relation to those who are 'doing it tough'.



Play

You want more recognition of the importance of play time for older young people, including ways to integrate more opportunities for sport into the school curriculum rather than afterhours.

Some of the online places and spaces you interacted with me and contributed to my work

end
period
poverty,
period.



COMMISSIONER'S
DIGITAL
CHALLENGE

hub



Focus Areas in 2020 were...

- Asking adults to create more **youthful spaces** where young people can gather and feel welcomed.
- Helping adults to recognise and respect how crucial your **digital connections** are and how this helps you to better understand the world and to interact with your peers.
- Identifying how those of you living in **regional communities** can be better supported, particularly in relation to your needs around work, transport and health.
- Raising awareness and seeking ways to support those of you who are not receiving adequate **health or education** services.
- Documenting the impact of **COVID-19** on your lives, particularly those of you transitioning from school into work.
- Improving the ways in which the small number of you who come into contact with **Youth Justice** are treated.
- Improving how you **transition from school** into work by seeking your perspectives and those of employers, parents and carers, on how to improve this experience and build successful pathways from a much earlier age.

Focus Areas for 2021 are...

You identified some new issues that you would like me to look at too. These include:

- How to make **school** more affordable to families.
- Providing greater support to those of you who are living with **disabilities** so you can participate in more activities.
- Providing comprehensive and inclusive **relationship and sexual health education** so that young people are safer and improve menstruation education to address taboo and stigma.
- Looking at how those of you who live with **chronic illness** can be better supported.
- Helping those of you who face barriers to accessing your **devices** to do so, to ensure you are not disadvantaged.

Thank you for sharing your ideas and opinions with me.

It has enabled me to work on building support amongst decisions makers and service providers to help bring about improvements in your lives in the ways that you have asked for.
I promise to keep listening in 2021.

Helen Connolly

Commissioner for Children and Young People, South Australia